

## VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2005

Accepted November 17, 2005

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Members Present: Jennifer Page, Meg O'Brien, Austin Bliss, Victoria Haase, Vinnie DeNovellis, Paul Santos, Ann Rittenburg

Members Absent: Paul Solomon, Sara Oaklander, Donna Brescia

#### 1. Administrivia

- Victoria Haase agreed to record the minutes for tonight's meeting
- Minutes from the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved
- Review of the Agenda included a suggestion by Austin Bliss to add a discussion about a possible "time line" for activities

#### 2. Report: Walk and Bike Meeting 10/28

- Paul Santos reported the meeting was organized by Rep. Ann Paulson, a founder of the Belmont Bike/Walk Group, to bring together people from the state and local level to discuss how the area around Belmont Center could be more accommodating to both pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- The meeting was attended by members of the Belmont Center Planning Group, Central Transportation Planning Group, Belmont Police Department, Office of Community Development, and concerned citizens.
- Ideas discussed included: better access to the railroad station, additional crosswalks, plowing of the sidewalks, ways to encourage walking and biking, creative traffic flow patterns to ease congestion at the underpass
- The meeting will be followed up by gathering additional community input
- Paul Santos will continue to report to the V21 committee on future activities

#### 3. Report: Tri-Town Meeting

- Vinnie DeNovellis reported on the first advisory committee meeting held by the newly formed Belmont, Lexington, Waltham Sub Area Study Group
- The group discussed how to identify and plan for the impacts of the increased volume of traffic generated from the proposed development of the Metropolitan State Hospital land and the Fernald School site.
- Some of the discussion focused on how to take a regional view instead of looking at the individual needs of each town. It was also noted that Cambridge was not represented although they are also neighbors
- A follow-up meeting is planned for early next year when the agenda will include a detailed review of current traffic conditions as well as all current development projects and their effect on traffic and congestion in the area
- Vinnie DeNovellis will continue to report to the V21 committee on future activities

#### 4. Review of the criteria for selecting initiatives

Jennifer Page and others began by providing additional background information as to how the original vision was created. Why did Belmont initially develop a visioning process and adopt a town wide vision?

- A vision is an aspirational statement about a community and its future; facing the new millennium, many towns seemed to be engaged in such a process.
- The Town needed an overall game plan with direction and goals not just individuals working on separate issues
- A vision could begin to help us manage change as a community
- Most committees are reactive, and the V21 Committee is an opportunity to be proactive
- After the strife over the McLean land, the Town needed an opportunity to unite.

A general discussion ensued, touching on the following topics:

What are our goals for this year?

Originally 5 general areas were identified which included: education, welcoming community, environmentally responsible, business friendly, and regional planning

How can we determine if the vision is still relevant?

Initially the visioning process took 1 year before a vision was developed; this was followed by about 6 months for the Implementation Committee to get organized

How do we get people reacquainted with the vision?

When is it appropriate to touch base with the community about the vision adopted in 2001?

Are our major works being implemented?

The Report "Is Belmont Business Friendly?" should be reviewed to see if the recommendations are being carried out.

How can we reach the balance of individual/collective energy and new initiatives?

Many of our members provide leadership or support to other groups

#### 5. For next meeting: Identify larger areas of focus in which VIC21 wants to work

Members present were asked before the next meeting to:

- Reread the vision statement asking the question-  
What areas of the vision (not specific projects) might be right for us to address now?
- Review the Draft Consolidation of Criteria for Selecting the VIC Initiatives and ask-  
How can we use these ideas to select current topics?

#### 6. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Victoria Haase,  
Secretary Pro Tempore